Award for Income Tax Payees

3275. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced awards for honest Income tax payees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government propose to motivate and recognize Income Tax payers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government have introduced a scheme called "Samman" starting from assessment year 1998-99 to inculcate a sense of pride among the tax payers in discharging their legitimate dues and establish social recognition of such contribution by the tax payers to the national cause.

Under the scheme eligible income tax payers in each of the three categories of Business, Profession and Salary are awarded Samman on the basis of the income declared in the income tax returns. It is a broad based scheme designed to ensure that an individual top tax paper gets Samman at every place where there is an income tax office. It is awarded both at National as well as regional levels.

At national level, there are two types of Samman:—

(i) Aayakar Ratna

(ii) Rashtriya Samman

One individual top tax payer in the country in each of the three categories of Business, Profession and Salary for a particular assessment year is given Aayakar Ratna. Further all individual tax payers in each of the three categories having declared an income of Rs. 20 lakh or more in four out five preceding years are awarded Rashtriya Samman.

At regional level, an individual top tax payer in each of the three catagories in a region who has declared highest income in a particular assessment year and has not been honoured at National level shall get Samman at regional level by the Chief Commissioner Income Tax of the region.

Further, every place where there is an income tax office, an individual top tax payer in each of three categories shall get Samman provided he has not been honoured at the higher level.

The function to felicitate the recipients of Aayakar Ratna and a few of the recipients of Rashtriya Samman to be held at national level for Assessment Year 1998-99 has already been held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 7th April, 2000 and Samman Patras have been awarded by the Finance Minister. The function to feliciate recipients at regional and local levels will follow shortly all over the country.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

Purchase of Computers in CGA Office, Lok Nayak Bhavan

3276. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Controller General of Accounts office at Lok Nayak Bhavan, New Delhi has purchased a number of computers and the same are being misused by the officials at their homes; and

(b) what is the number of computers with the said office and how many are being used in the office and the official's home?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) and (b) The number of computers with the office of the Controller General of Accounts is 89. No computer is being misused by the officials at their residence.

Delay in Payment to Legal Heirs in PNB

3277. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is inordinate delay in payment of balance amount from the account to the legal heirs in the Punjab National Bank;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Punjab National Bank in the Naugaonkhal, Pauri Garhwal, U.P. refused to make payments to the genuine persons inspite of producing the necessary documents;

(c) if so, whether Government have received any complaint in this regard;